

THE GOLD STANDARD.

Republican Members of House and Senate Reach an Agreement.

The Dollar Shall Be Twenty-Five and Five-Tenths Grains of Gold, Nine-Tenths Fine—Other Money On a Parity.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The republican members of the conference committee on the financial bill reached an agreement. The democratic conferees were called in, and stated their opposition to the bill, and without further formality the bill was ordered reported. The text of the bill as agreed upon and as it will be reported by the conferees and as it will probably become a law is as follows:

That the dollar, consisting of 25.8 grains of gold, nine-tenths fine, as established by section 3511 of the revised statutes of the United States, shall be the standard unit of value, and all forms of money issued or coined by the United States shall be maintained at a parity of value with this standard, and it shall be the duty of the secretary of the treasury to maintain such parity.

That United States notes and treasury notes issued under the act of July 14, 1890, when presented to the treasury for redemption, shall be redeemed in gold coin of the standard fixed in the first section of this act; and, in order to secure the prompt and certain redemption of such notes as hereinafter provided, it shall be the duty of the secretary of the treasury to set apart in the treasury a reserve fund of \$150,000,000 in gold coin and bullion, which fund shall be used for such redemption purposes only, and whenever and as often as any of said notes shall be redeemed from said fund, it shall be the duty of the secretary of the treasury to use said notes so redeemed to restore and maintain such reserve fund in the manner following to-wit: First, by exchanging the notes so redeemed for any gold coin in the general fund of the treasury; second, by accepting deposits of gold coin at the treasury or at any sub-treasury in exchange for the United States notes so redeemed; third, by procuring gold coin by the use of said notes, in accordance with the provisions of section 3700 of the revised statutes of the United States.

If the secretary of the treasury is unable to restore and maintain the gold coin in the reserve fund by the foregoing methods, and the amount of such gold coin and bullion in said fund shall at any time fall below \$100,000,000, then it shall be his duty to restore the same to the maximum sum of \$150,000,000 by borrowing money on the credit of the United States, and, for the debt thus incurred, to issue and sell coupon or registered bonds of the United States in such form as he may prescribe, in denominations of \$50 or any multiple thereof, bearing interest at the rate of not exceeding 3 per centum per annum, payable quarterly, such bonds to be payable at the pleasure of the United States after one year from the date of their issue, and to be payable, principal and interest, in gold coin of the present standard value and to be exempt from the payment of all taxes or duties of the United States, as well as from taxation in any form by or under state, municipal or local authority; and the gold coin received from the sale of said bonds shall first be covered into the general fund of the treasury and then exchanged in the manner hereinbefore provided for an equal amount of the notes redeemed and held for exchange, and the secretary of the treasury may, in his discretion, use said notes in exchange for gold or to purchase or redeem any bonds of the United States or for any other lawful purpose the public interests may require, except that they shall not be used to meet deficiencies in the current revenues. That United States notes, when redeemed in accordance with the provisions of this act, shall be reissued, but shall be held in the reserve fund until exchanged for gold, as herein provided; and the gold coin and bullion in the reserve fund, together with the redeemed notes held or used as provided in this section shall at no time exceed the maximum sum of \$150,000,000.

That nothing contained in this act shall be construed to affect the legal tender quality as now provided by law of the silver dollar, or of any other money coined or issued by the United States.

That it shall be the duty of the secretary of the treasury, as fast as standard silver dollars are coined under the provisions of the acts of July 14, 1890, and June 13, 1896, from bullion purchased under the act of July 14, 1890, to retire and cancel an equal amount of treasury notes whenever received into the treasury, either by exchange in accordance with the provisions of this act, or in the ordinary course of business, and upon the cancellation of treasury notes silver certificates shall be issued against the silver dollar so coined.

New Statue of Gen. Grant.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The house committee on library favorably reported a bill making an appropriation of \$5,000 for the preparation of plans or designs for a memorial statue of Gen. Grant to be erected in Washington.

To Meet in Indianapolis.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The executive committee of the National Association of Democratic clubs Friday decided to hold the next annual meeting of democratic clubs at Indianapolis, September 5.

FIRE IN BIRMINGHAM.

Metropolitan Hotel and the Hewlett Block, Adjoining, Are Destroyed, Causing a Loss of \$100,000.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 24.—The explosion of a gasoline stove in the basement of the Metropolitan hotel was followed by a fire which burned that building and the Hewlett block adjoining, causing a loss of about \$100,000. The insurance amounts to about three fourths of the loss. After two hours hard work by the firemen the flames were beyond control and, fearing the entire block, including the potter buildings and the Morris hotel would be swept away, a telegram was sent to Montgomery asking for aid. An hour later, however, the fire was under control, and the call for aid from Montgomery was countermanded.

Everything on Twentieth street from First to Morris avenue, is a wreck, but a strong fire wall back of the Hewlett building and the Metropolitan hotel prevented the fire from extending any further in that direction. The Berney bank recovered all its books, money and fixtures from its building and a company of militia was called out to guard the coin and keep the crowd back. A number of the guests in the Metropolitan narrowly escaped, some having to be lowered from their rooms by means of ropes.

PRICE OF WHITE PAPER.

Newspaper Publishers Ask Congress to Inquire Into the Sudden Increase Recently Made.

New York, Feb. 24.—The American Newspaper Publishers' association, comprising most of the large newspapers of the United States, for the past three days in convention at the Waldorf-Astoria, in this city, gave thorough consideration to the sudden increase in the price of white paper and the reasons therefor. The following resolutions were unanimously passed, and a committee of the newspaper proprietors will personally present the same to congress within the next few days:

"Whereas, The price of printing paper used by newspapers in the United States has been arbitrarily increased in price from 60 to 100 per cent., without reason or warrant to be found in the conditions of the industry itself; and,

"Whereas, It is the common belief that this increase is due to the workings of a trust; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the American Newspaper Publishers' association, representing in this case not only its own members, but the 22,000 newspapers of the United States, calls upon congress to make inquiry, by means of a special committee, into the conditions above described, to the end that suitable legislation may be provided to remedy this condition of affairs in the interest of the best source of public information provided for the people, to-wit, the newspaper press, whose interest the founders of the republic held in the highest regard."

HALF A MILLION LOSS.

Fire in Philadelphia in Which One Woman Was Killed and Several Other Persons Were Injured.

Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—One woman was killed, several other persons were severely injured and property valued at half a million dollars was destroyed by fire which broke out in the heart of the wholesale millinery district. The burned area covered nearly two acres. The woman killed was Clara Cohen, 26 years old, a seamstress in the employ of Harry and Bernard Cohen. She met her death by jumping from the fifth floor of the building in which the fire started. The fire started in the third floor of No. 721 and 723 Arch, occupied by Simon May, manufacturer of straw goods. The fire then spread to the big six story building adjoining on the east, Nos. 711 and 719 Arch street, occupied by Bowen, Dungan & Co., dealers in wholesale millinery goods. This structure was also soon entirely consumed. By this time the buildings on the west of the May building, Nos. 725, 727 and 729 Arch street, occupied by John W. Culver & Co., manufacturers of millinery goods; Philip Quellwasser, importer of furs; a bicycle firm and a manufacturer of pneumatic carriages, were also in flames and could not be saved. The losses are estimated at about \$500,000.

Civil Service Pension Fund.

Washington, Feb. 24.—An amendment to the legislative appropriation bill providing for a civil service pension fund was introduced by Senator Gallinger. It provides for the creation of such a fund by withholding two per cent. of all salaries paid to persons engaged in the civil service of government and prescribes methods for the disbursement of the fund.

Carnival Attraction.

Mobile, Ala., Feb. 23.—The United States cruiser Detroit has arrived here from Key West, having been sent to this city by the secretary of the navy to attend the Mobile carnival.

Mrs. Kruger is Very Ill.

Brussels, Feb. 24.—Private letters from Pretoria received here announce that Mrs. Kruger, the wife of the president, is very ill. The war has grievously impressed her, and her health is also impaired by anxiety for her numerous sons and grandsons fighting for their country, one of whom was killed at Deerpoot.

Bones of a Mammoth Found.

Constance, Ky., Feb. 24.—Workmen in a gravel pit found the hip bone of a mammoth. It measured two feet across.

CRONJE SURROUNDED.

He is Willing to Surrender But His Men Will Not Permit Him.

The Boers Reported to Have Plenty of Provisions, but to Be Running Short of Ammunition—Latest News From the Front.

London Feb. 24.—Every hour is expected to bring news of General Cronje's surrender. On all sides wonder is expressed that the gallant yet ghastly battle at Paardeberg drift has not yet ended in what is considered to be the inevitable. With fifty guns bearing upon the devoted band within the terribly short range of 2,000 yards, surrender or utter annihilation can be the only result, unless all reports of the strength of the Boer reinforcements are wrong. The critics canvass every untoward contingency that can affect Field Marshal Roberts and see nothing that can save Gen. Cronje from the terrible vise in which he has been caught.

Even if an unexpectedly strong attack on Lord Roberts' lines of communication could scarcely, according to these experts materially alter the result.

Paardeberg, Orange Free State, Feb. 24.—Gen. Cronje's position is more hopeless than ever. The British forces are closing in on all sides. Our guns dominate the sloping ascents from the river on all sides, and by the rush of the Shropshires on Wednesday night up the river bed the Boers lost 200 yards space in their cover.

Deserters say the British fire has been very deadly, and affirm that Gen. Cronje himself is willing to surrender, but is overborne by the young Boers from the Transvaal.

There are women and children with the Boer forces. On Wednesday Lord Roberts sent Gen. Cronje an offer of a safe conduct for the women and children, together with a free pass to any point for them, and also an offer of doctors and medicine. Cronje's reply was a curt refusal, and desultory shelling was resumed.

The kopje captured by the British last Wednesday, when 50 prisoners were taken, is a most important strategic position. Its possession should enable us to repulse any Boer reinforcements from the eastward.

The British took 80 prisoners as the result of Friday's engagement. A balloon ascended and discovered several new works, which the British guns shelled.

The scene of the last seven days' fighting is one of the prettiest spots in South Africa. The river at the point where Gen. Cronje is ensconced and fighting for life resembles some parts of the Hudson river, the ground all around sloping toward the stream. All the highlands are covered by British artillery. Cronje is faced in the front and rear from both banks by the British, while Gen. French's horse, far away on the flanks, prevents a sudden rush of Boers.

London, Feb. 26.—The war office publishes the following dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated at Paardeberg, February 24, at 12:20 p. m.:

"Parties of Boers recently arrived from Natal attacked our outposts in force again yesterday. They lost a good many killed and wounded and nearly 100 prisoners, including a commandant and three field cornets. Our casualties were four officers wounded, nine men killed, 23 men wounded and two men missing. On the 21st and 22d one officer and 13 men were wounded. "During the advance to and at Kimberley the casualties were: Officers, 4 killed, 13 wounded; men, 4 killed, 78 wounded."

London, Feb. 26.—A dispatch to the Morning Post from Kimberley, dated Friday, says: "Gen. Cronje is reported to have plenty of provisions, but to be running short of ammunition. Mr. Rhodes is extremely hopeful that the war has reached its concluding stage."

London, Feb. 26.—The Lourenco Marques correspondent of the Times says: "The feeling in official circles at Pretoria borders on consternation. Gen. Louis Botha and President Steyn are both urging President Kruger to sue for peace. At Bloemfontein Gen. Cronje's position is regarded as hopeless."

London, Feb. 26.—The Times publishes the following dispatch from Colenso, dated Saturday: "The British are now within two miles of being in touch with Ladysmith, but the ground still to be covered is the hardest part, and very severe fighting must be expected."

Electric Lines Consolidate.

Cincinnati, Feb. 25.—The consolidation of the Cincinnati & Hamilton and the Cincinnati & Miami Valley electric lines has been consummated under the title of the Southern Ohio Traction Co. The new line extends from Cincinnati to Dayton, and through cars will be started Monday. William Christy, of Akron, was elected president of the new company, and F. T. Pomeroy, of Cleveland, secretary and treasurer.

Nellie Grant Sartoris Improving.

New York, Feb. 26.—Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris is now convalescing from an operation, and will be about in a few days. On account of public statements that her malady was cancer, her physician states that after the operation an examination has proved that there is no evidence that cancer has ever existed.

Frozen on a Highway.

Warsaw, N. Y., Feb. 26.—The body of John Carmody was found frozen on a highway near this town. He was out in Saturday's gale and perished.

STEAMER ASHORE.

Passengers and Crew Will Be Saved, but It Is Likely That the Vessel Will Be a Total Loss.

Portland, Me., Feb. 26.—The big Allan line steamship Californian, which left her dock at midnight Saturday, went ashore on Ram island ledge, just outside of the harbor, a few minutes after her pilot left her Sunday morning. All the passengers are safe although still aboard.

Most of the local seafaring men are of the opinion that the rocks have penetrated the bottom of the vessel in several places and they doubt very much if she can be saved. The vessel is valued at \$3,000,000. The cargo is valued at \$300,000. There are six cabin, five intermediate and ten steerage passengers beside a crew of 75 men.

CALL TO BIMETALISTS.

A National Convention Will Be Held in Kansas City, July 4—Same Date as Democratic Convention.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Judge J. W. Rucker, of Colorado, professor of the United States Monetary league, has been in Washington for several days conferring with the leading bimetalists throughout the country, with the view of getting their opinions concerning the propriety of holding a national convention of bimetalists at some time in the future.

It is now definitely determined that such convention will be held in Kansas City on July 4. It is expected that some 600 or 800 delegates will be in attendance from all the states and territories. A committee has been chosen to confer with the local committee at Kansas City for the purpose of securing accommodations for the guests.

A NOVEL TAKING OFF.

Pennsylvania Man Lies Down on a Pile of Ice in a Refrigerator Car and Dies.

Denver, Col., Feb. 26.—The body of a man, which was found in a refrigerator car at Eaton, Cal., on February 4, has been identified as that of Stuart St. Clair, of Williamsport, Pa. Instead of accident, his death is suicide.

St. Clair, who had been traveling under the name of James Hamlyn, as agent for a refrigerator car company, wrote to his wife from Ft. Worth last January that he intended to commit suicide.

January 27 he lay down on a pile of ice in a sealed refrigerator car and froze to death. His body was found when the Colorado & Southern train reached Eaton a fortnight later. His wife, hearing of this incident, sent for a photograph of the dead man, and has positively identified him as her husband.

Harry M. Weldon Stricken.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 26.—Harry M. Weldon, who for the past 20 years has been sporting editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer, was stricken with paralysis early Sunday morning as he was entering his home on Seventh street. His right side is completely paralyzed and he is unable to speak, although he is conscious. His physicians have some hopes that the stroke will not prove fatal. Mr. Weldon is 44 years old, and is well known to the sporting fraternity throughout the United States.

British Steamship Sinks.

London, Feb. 25.—The British steamship Bath City, Capt. Jones, from New York, February 9, for Bristol, struck the north end of Lundy isle, in the British channel, Saturday. She backed off, and immediately sank in deep water. The master, three officers and ten of the crew reached Lundy Roads in life boats. The other life boat, with the remainder of the crew, is also believed to be safe.

Conference of Boer Sympathizers.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 26.—Leaders in this state of the pro-Boer movement are arranging to call a conference in Detroit of those active in the cause in the various states for the purpose of consolidating the movement in the hope that such united effort may be influential in preparing the way for mediation and arbitration of the British-Boer differences.

Street Car Wrecked.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 26.—A street car on the Decatur Blue Line was wrecked near Oakland cemetery by striking an obstruction, which had evidently been placed across the track. The car rolled 15 feet down an embankment. The 12 passengers on the car were more or less injured. Herschel Dellaperry and Policeman Eugene Coker probably fatally.

Detroit Fireman Killed.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 26.—Fire in the plant of the Detroit Steel and Spring Co.'s works destroyed both the company's rolling mills and caused the death of fireman Timothy Kane, besides indirectly resulting in injuries to a physician and an ambulance driver. The property loss is about \$100,000, fully insured.

Bill Against Trusts.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Representative Richardson, of Tennessee, introduced joint resolutions against the steel trust and against trusts in barbed wire, wire nails, etc., in the form similar to those introduced by him against the sugar and paper trusts.

Well-Known Sporting Man Dead.

New York, Feb. 26.—Edward Kearney, a well known sportsman and Tammany politician, is dead at Palm Beach, Fla., aged 69 years. He was prominent in the horse and carriage trade.

WE WILL HOLD THEM.

The American Flag Will Not Be Taken Down on Sabitu and Cagayan Islands.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The American flag will not come down on Sabitu island or on Cagayan island. Spain has been demanding that these islands be returned to it. The war department was ready to make the return and so was the state department up to Saturday. The navy department, however, was unwilling to surrender anything it had taken, and has made its title good to the islands. The state department will inform Spain that the islands are the property of the United States, and will hold them.

Sabitu is east of Borneo and Cagayan is west of Mindaro, about 290 miles. Sabitu was saved to the United States by the discovery Saturday of an old treaty between Spain, Great Britain and Germany, which specifically says that Borneo's holding shall not extend further than three miles from the coast of Borneo. Sabitu is on the opposite side of the channel separating Borneo from the Sulu archipelago.

As to Cagayan island the records show that it was at one time used as a penal colony by Spain, and the latter is therefore stopped from denying that it was used as a part of the Philippine group.

EMBALMED BLOOD.

It Is Being Sold in Toledo by the Chicago Packing Houses Says the Inspector.

Toledo, O., Feb. 26.—City Meat Inspector Schurtz reported to the health department that he had found another meat product here in the shape of "embalmed" blood, lungs, livers and brains of hogs, sheep and cattle. He says the articles are shipped here and sold by the Chicago packing houses. He says the chief buyers of the "embalmed" blood and lungs are the Poles and Hungarians, who use the articles for sausage, soup and broths, and some claim they drink the mixture. The products are being submitted to a chemical analysis. The meat inspector says that the embalming fluids used are even stronger than those resorted to to preserve meat.

MANY PEOPLE HURT.

A Disastrous Fire Followed By a Series of Explosions in a Suburb of the City of Paris.

Paris, Feb. 26.—As the result of a fire that broke out at Saint Ouen, a suburb of Paris, in a collection of alcohol and oil stores, a series of explosions occurred spreading the flames until a block of six immense warehouses was involved in a huge conflagration.

A great concourse of spectators had assembled and had approached too near when, suddenly and unexpectedly, the explosion occurred. The official computation shows that 150 were hurt and quite a number seriously. The loss is estimated at 2,000,000 francs.

Influenza Still Raging in Berlin.

Berlin, Feb. 26.—The influenza is still raging. Princess Frederick Charles has been attacked. The Italian ambassador here, Count Lanza di Busea, had invited Emperor William and the elite of Berlin, among them United States Ambassador White and Mrs. White to a dinner, but he was seized with influenza and the dinner was postponed.

Work of Assassins.

Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 25.—A special from Bucktown says Miles Woods was called from his mountain home and shot down in cold blood. He died in ten minutes. His father ran out to ascertain the trouble, and was shot twice by the assassin. It is claimed that before the latter died he charged a deputy United States marshal with having committed the deed.

Locomotives on Runners.

Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 25.—Lumbermen have introduced a successful locomotive on runners to haul trains of log-laden sleds from lumber camps. Another machine chips ice from the lake to make roads in the snowless season. The two inventions will revolutionize the methods in the lumber camps.

Prize for Debaters.

Princeton, N. J., Feb. 25.—Announcement has been made by the judges of the sophomore prize debate held in Whig hall, recently, that the first prize was awarded to John Green Sims, of Wartrace, Tenn., and the second to Paul Irwin McClory, of Winchester, Ky. Upwards of twenty contestants entered the debate.

Death of Mrs. Amos J. Snell.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Mrs. Henrietta Snell, widow of Amos J. Snell, the millionaire whose murder has been a mystery for 12 years, died Saturday. She was stricken three days ago with heart disease. Mrs. Snell was nearly 70 years old, and had lived since her husband's tragic death in the house in which he was murdered.

Chicago Man Dies Away From Home.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 26.—Lycurgus F. Laffin, of Chicago, the wealthy gunpowder manufacturer, died unexpectedly at the Chamberlain hotel, Old Point Comfort. He arrived here from Chicago several days ago.

Order for Whitehead Torpedoes.

New York, Feb. 25.—Rr. Adm. O'Neill, chief of the ordnance bureau, has placed a contract with E. W. Bliss & Co., of Brooklyn, for 30 Whitehead torpedoes, for which the government will pay \$120,000.

"Charity Begins At Home."

Be kind to your body. Remember it is fed not by thoughts of what you think you'll do, but by the strong volume of vital force which the heart distributes. Treat your life's blood well. Hood's Sarsaparilla is a medicinal sister of charity, and aids to keep you in good health as nothing else can.

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"I suffered the tortures of the damned with protruding piles brought on by constipation with which I was afflicted for twenty years. I ran across your CASCARETS in the town of Newell, Ia., and never found anything to equal them. To-day I am entirely free from piles and feel like a new man." C. H. Kirtz, 1411 Jones St., Sioux City, Ia.

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